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LETTER DATED 22 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 16 January 1995 (S/1995/48), I have the honour to inform you that at 1455 hours on 19 January 1995 19 armed men disembarked in rubber boats from the United States frigate bearing the number 48 and boarded the Iraqi vessel Al-Tharthar, which is assigned to carry water, while it was supplying water to the tug Al-Bakr in an area near the port of Al-Mina' al-Amiq. They took the vessel Al-Tharthar to an unknown area at a 180-degree bearing from Al-Mina' al-Amiq before releasing it at 1840 hours on the same day.

These repeated inimical and unlawful acts on the part of the Government of the United States of America provide cogent proof of its hostile intentions against Iraq and demonstrate its persistence in violating Iraq's national sovereignty. They also constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law.

I request you to intervene, as required by the responsibilities entrusted to you under the Charter, with a view to preventing any future repetition of hostile, provocative and unwarranted acts such as these.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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